



NEWSLETTER
March 2010

This newsletter is intended to provide a recap of some of the healthy homes and lead-based paint information that we have shared in the IHHN meetings or that has come to us through various Listservs. We want to especially thank the National Center for Healthy Homes and the many content providers on LeadNet and HealthyHomesNet.

EH@Home Workshops

EH@Home Workshops are an educational forum for individuals and professionals who have an interest in environmental health in the home. EH@Home will focus on common environmental health concerns found in residential settings. OSU Faculty will present the latest research findings on key environmental health issues in residential settings. Through engaging, hands-on activities participants will be able to recognize common problems, identify risk reduction strategies, and know when to use specialists for further assistance. These workshops will focus on practical, low- and no-cost solutions to many common environmental health issues in the home. Lunch will be provided along with a Certificate of Attendance.
<http://ehsc.oregonstate.edu/ehathome>

PAINT RETAILER LEAD-BASED PAINT TRAINING

The on-line training course provides the training at no cost to the user. Please contact the Indiana Lead and Healthy Homes Program at 317.233.1250 for information on the requirements for this training.
<http://www.cedia.net/paintretailer>

ONLINE LEAD VIDEOS

For persons who may want to inform the community about the consequences of lead poisoning can utilize videos available in an online course they have in Connecticut featuring some of the top scientists involved in lead poisoning research. If anyone wants to actually take the course, click on the "back" link to get to the introductory page.
<http://feact.org/training/helpmenupage.html>

DANGER FROM SMALL AMOUNTS OF LEAD IN CHILDREN'S BLOOD

High doses of lead have for some time been linked to chronic kidney damage. But a recent study out of Johns Hopkins Children's Center found that even small levels of lead exposure may be damaging to children's kidneys.
<http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-he-lead-20100308,0,6907581.story>

POISONING THE MIND—ADHD AND LEAD

http://www.economist.com/sciencetechnology/displaystory.cfm?story_id=15474577

STRIPPING OLD FURNITURE--OCCUPATIONAL AND TAKE-HOME LEAD POISONING

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/285/17/2187-a>

ELEPHANT IN THE PLAYGROUND—LEAD-CONTAMINATED SOILS

[http://urbanleadpoisoning.com/Filippelli%20and%20Laidlaw%202010 Elephant.pdf](http://urbanleadpoisoning.com/Filippelli%20and%20Laidlaw%202010%20Elephant.pdf)

SPENT AMMO'S HARM TO ENVIRONMENT IS DEBATED

Lead in paint, gasoline and drinking water is prohibited as dangerous for health and the environment. But tons of lead from ammunition can accumulate on the ground over years. No federal law addresses lead containment at outdoor shooting ranges.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100211/NEWS0201/2110347/2066/NEWS03>

FDA RESPONSE TO CONSUMER QUESTIONS ABOUT OVER-THE-COUNTER CHELATION THERAPIES

http://www.chelationwatch.org/reg/fda_warning.shtml



WALMART RECALLS DISNEY PENDENTS--CADMIUM

Federal consumer safety regulators on Friday announced the recall of "The Princess and The Frog" pendants sold at Walmart stores because of high levels of cadmium - an unprecedented action that reflects concerns of an emerging threat in children's jewelry.

<http://cbs11tv.com/national/walmart.cadium.jewelry.2.1458482.html>



RECALL OF BABY BRACELETS AND PACIFIER CLIPS—RISK OF LEAD

To see this recall on CPSC's web site, including pictures of the recalled products, please go to:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10139.html>

TARGET PULLS BEARS

Target Corp. pulled Valentine's Day "Message Bears" from store shelves after California's attorney general raised concerns that the toys have illegal levels of lead.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2010/02/09/financial/f142710S42.DTL>



LEAD IN MORROCAN TAGINES

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/advisories-avis/aw-am/moroccantagines-eng.php>

<http://www.cbc.ca/health/story/2005/07/20/lead-tajines050720.html>

Lead and cadmium free tagines here:

<http://www.amazon.com/Cookable-Tajine-Black-White-Design/dp/B000ZW0YJ0>

FDA has standards for ceramic tableware:

<http://www.fda.gov/ICECI/ComplianceManuals/CompliancePolicyGuidanceManual/ucm074516.htm>



VIDEO--HIDDEN DANGERS IN YOUR HOME?

<http://www.kgw.com/video/featured-videos/Hidden-home-dangers-84088677.html>



LEAD POISONINGS LINKED TO INDIAN IMPORTS

Boston researchers have linked lead poisoning in four local children to imported Indian powders and food spices, and follow-up tests found some ceremonial powders and spices sold in local specialty grocery stores contained detectable amounts of the toxic metal.

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2010/03/20/lead_poisonings_linked_to_indian_imports/

NCHH TOOLS—SUSTAINABLE GREEN AND HEALTHY HOUSING

The National Center for Healthy Housing released a new suite of resources supporting efforts to build affordable, sustainable and healthy homes. www.nchh.org/Training/Green-and-Healthy-Housing.aspx

NCHH has co-convened Webinars with Enterprise on the benefits of smoke-free housing and radon resistant construction. NCHH has also developed a course entitled "Green and Healthy Strategies for Multifamily Housing" in partnership with Steven Winter Associates and NeighborWorks America. The course meets the NAHMA/NAA green property management certification requirement, which qualifies training participants under HUD's Mark to Market Green Initiative, as well as the Recovery Act/Green Retrofit Program. Sign up for the course online. www.nw.org/network/green/training.asp.

COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

What is health? How do we measure it? What determines it? A new report from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute takes a turn at answering these questions. "County Health Rankings: Mobilizing action toward community health" combines weighted measures of health outcomes and health determinants to define and rank the health of individual counties throughout the US. <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>

PRENATAL PHTHALATE EXPOSURE AND CHILDHOOD BEHAVIOR AND EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING

Children are more likely to have attention and behavioral problems when exposed to phthalates in cosmetics and fragrances in the womb. The connection was only detected for the types of phthalates used in perfumes, shampoos and other personal care products, not the ones found in vinyl toys and other soft plastics. "More phthalates equaled more behavioral problems," said Stephanie Engel, an associate professor of preventive medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. "For every increase of exposure, we saw an increase in frequency and severity of the symptoms," including attention problems, poor conduct and aggression. <http://tinyurl.com/y8ao3ap>



DISPOSING OF OLD MEDICINES CAN BE TRICKY

Researchers have long been finding residues from pharmaceuticals and personal care products in our lakes and rivers. Some of them are endocrine disruptors and can cause fish to develop both male and female characteristics.

<http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2010/01/29/medicine-disposal/>

SAVING FACE

While the FDA requires companies to list all intentional ingredients, it doesn't require them to list byproducts, such as formaldehyde, or the ingredients in fragrance, considered trade secrets.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/health/sc-health-0310-cosmetics-20100310,0,5672807.story>

MIND DISRUPTED

Leading members of the Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative (LDDI), along with other colleagues in the environmental health field stepped forward to have their bodies tested for chemicals. They released a new biomonitoring report: *Mind, Disrupted: How Toxic Chemicals May Affect How We Think and Who We Are*. <http://www.minddisrupted.org>



AIR FRESHNERS

Coming Alongside, a nonprofit organization that seeks to make transparent the biological and chemical hazards in our everyday environments so that individuals can reduce their exposure, has published its Winter 2010 Newsletter which features an article summarizing the health risks of air fresheners. http://www.comingalongside.org/Home_files/newsletter.pdf

WHAT'S IN FLOOR CLEANERS? STAIN REMOVERS? WHAT ARE THE HEALTH IMPLICATIONS?

The American Lung Association and the Sierra Club want to know more. http://www.organicconsumers.org/articles/article_20176.cfm

UPDATED GUIDE: GROW SMART, GROW SAFE

The sixth edition of this guide includes environmental and health ratings of 600 pesticides, fertilizers and soil amendments, offering a comprehensive guide to lawn and garden products. <http://tinyurl.com/ycz943c>



KILLER PESTICIDE

http://www.sltrib.com/ci_14366904

EPA REQUIRES BUG-BOMB LABELING

Here are the key label changes:

- Use plain language with clear headings
- Incorporate pictograms
- Strengthen instructions to vacate upon use and air out upon return by requiring greater label prominence
- Door hang-tags must be provided to inform others to stay out of treated areas

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides>

ARE NON-SMOKERS SMARTER THAN SMOKERS?

Cigarette smokers have lower IQs than non-smokers, and the more a person smokes, the lower their IQ, a study in over 20,000 Israeli military recruits suggests. Reuters Health <http://www.reutershealth.com/archive/2010/02/23/eline/links/20100223elin001.html>

SECONDHAND SMOKE DAMAGES ARTERIES IN TEENS

Children as young as 13 who have evidence of secondhand smoke in their blood also have visibly thicker arteries, Finnish researchers reported on Tuesday. <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6214P920100302>

THIRDHAND SMOKE FORMS LASTING CANCER CAUSING RESIDUE

People may face a risk from indoor tobacco smoke in a way that's never been recognized before, a new study finds. Tobacco smoke contamination lingering on furniture, clothes and other surfaces – dubbed

thirdhand smoke – may react with indoor air chemicals to form potential cancer-causing substances.
<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601124&sid=aTVcuy71TmGE>

NEW PAMPHLET FOR EXPECTING MOMS

The American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) has developed a color, folded, cross-cultural pamphlet to be given to women at Ob-Gyn appointments. This educational pamphlet explains environmental risks at home, in the workplace, and outdoors and is intended for use in clinics and doctors offices around the country. Contributing partners include the Learning Disabilities Association of America (LDA), American College of Nurse Midwives, and the V.A. women's health program, with funding from the John Merck Fund. A Spanish version of the pamphlet will be available shortly. English: <http://www.aaidd.org/ehi/media/EnviroPreg.pdf>
Spanish: http://www.aaidd.org/ehi/content_3339.cfm?navID=295



STUDY LINKS GAS-FRYING MEAT WITH CANCER

Pan-frying meat with gas may be worse than doing so with electricity, with respect to the cancer risk, Norwegian researchers find. Their study suggests professional chefs and cooks may be particularly at risk. [Go to the Full Story...](#)

MOLD IN THE WORKPLACE

A poll by SitexOrbis finds that one-third of property professionals are unaware of the dangers of mold in buildings. <http://tinyurl.com/yg97iqd>

THE ELEMENTS OF IMPROVING CHILDHOOD ASTHMA

A new report from GW found that asthma adds about 50 cents to every health care dollar spent on children with asthma compared to children without asthma. Those most at risk – low income, medically underserved, and African-American and Hispanic children – have the least access to preventive care and the most visits to the ER. www.mcanonline.org/pdf/MCAN_Policy_Report_Final.pdf

LINK BETWEEN ASTHMA AND PRENATAL ACETAMINOPHEN

Researchers at the *Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health (CCCEH)* have released a new paper, published in the February issue of *Thorax*, that finds that children who were exposed to acetaminophen prenatally were more likely to have asthma symptoms at age five.

Researchers found that the relationship was stronger in children with a variant of a gene that is involved in detoxification of foreign substances. The variant is common among African-American and Hispanic populations. The results suggest that less efficient detoxification is a mechanism in the association between acetaminophen and asthma. This study builds on prior research showing an association between both prenatal and postnatal acetaminophen exposure and asthma and is the first to demonstrate a link between acetaminophen and asthma through the ability to detoxify foreign substances in the body. To read the press release, click [here](#). To read the paper, click [here](#).

TRAFFIC AND OUTDOOR AIR POLLUTION: RESPIRATORY ILLNESS AND MORTALITY IN CHILDREN

Study shows exposure to traffic-related outdoor air pollution would increase adverse health effects after adjusting for indoor air pollution. Furthermore, indoor air pollution could exacerbate the effects of outdoor air pollution. <http://tinyurl.com/yghvcvf>

HOUSEHOLD DIRT WON'T RAISE ASTHMA RISK

Allergens not linked to wheezing in kids, study finds.
http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_95835.html

ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL ALLERGIES

<http://download.journals.elsevierhealth.com/pdfs/journals/0091-6749/PIIS0091674909017515.pdf>

ARE FLAME RETARDANTS PUTTING US AT RISK?

Certain kinds of flame retardant chemicals leach out of our couches, our TVs, our carpet padding and many other things in our homes. And they're getting into our bodies.

http://www.environmentreport.org/story.php?story_id=4910

BEDBUG RESISTANCE TO INSECTICIDES IS WIDESPREAD

In a recent study, entomologists at the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture found the majority of bed bugs in the United States appear to have developed genetic mutations, making them resistant to the most commonly used insecticides called pyrethroids. <http://www.ca.uky.edu/news/?c=n&d=531>



BED BUG TRAINING VIDEO IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

By Dr. Dini Miller of Virginia Tech. www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8lAFi5wF44

BED BUG CONTROL IN MULTIFAMILY HOUSING

Check out NCHH's "What's Working for Bed Bug Control in Multi-Family Housing: Reconciling best practices with research and the realities of implementation" report.

www.healthyhomestraining.org/ipm/NCHH_Bed_Bug_Control_2-12-10.pdf

PEST CONTROL THAT'S TOO HOT FOR BUGS TO HANDLE

Bedbugs, cockroaches and other reviled insects may have nowhere to hide from a rapid heat treatment which could make pesticides and fumigants obsolete. New Scientist

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn18601-pest-control-thats-too-hot-for-bugs-to-handle.html>

OTHER LINKS:

Idaho Healthy Homes Network - <http://www.hud.gov/local/id/library/healthyhomes/IHHN.cfm>

Subscribe the Healthy Homes Network Listserv-

http://www.hud.gov/subscribe/signup.cfm?listname=Idaho%20Healthy%20Homes%20Network&list=ID_AHO-HH-NETWORK-L

HUD's Office of Health Homes and Lead Hazard Control - <http://www.hud.gov/offices/lead/>

EPA – www.epa.gov/lead

OSHA – www.osha.gov

National Center for Healthy Housing - <http://www.nchh.org/Home.aspx>

Alliance for Healthy Homes - www.afhh.org

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission; Product Recalls -

<http://cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prereel.html>

LeadNet – international listserve on lead and lead poisoning; to subscribe - Leadnet-on@mail-list.com

To search LeadNet Archives - <http://archive.mail-list.com/leadnet>

User Name = leadnet

Password = lswp (The User Name and Password are case-sensitive.)

For parents of a lead-poisoned child: www.alphalead.org

Tamara Rubin's (Portland, OR) website: <http://www.mychildrenhaveleadpoisoning.com>